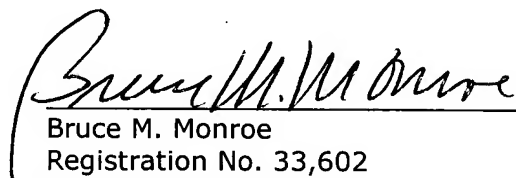


**Remarks/Arguments:****Amendments**

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependent claims and to introduce conventional claim terminology. It is submitted that no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

The Examiner is invited to phone applicants' attorney if it is believed that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bruce M. Monroe  
Registration No. 33,602  
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: January 6, 2006

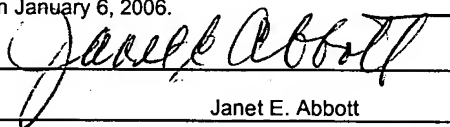
RatnerPrestia  
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(302) 778-2500  
FAX: (302) 778-2600

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to Mail Stop: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 6, 2006.

  
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Janet E. Abbott

I:\BPD\103US\PRELIMINARY\_AMENDMENT